

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Washburn.Ben@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN)
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <Group>](#)
CC:
Date: 9/24/2014 3:41:52 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 9/24/14

OPA Daily Digest for 9/24/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Dave Loebsack (Iowa) – Letter – 9/4/14: Redevelopment of former RCRA site Elkem Metals Company in Keokuk. Due: 9/19/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Des Moines Register – Donnelle Eller – 9/23/14: Coordination of interview with Karl Brooks regarding climate change and Clean Power Plan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Kansas Public Radio – Bryan Thompson – 9/23/14: Coordination of interview with Karl Brooks regarding climate change and Clean Power Plan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) – Nick Bergen – 9/23/14: Coordination of interview with Karl Brooks regarding climate change and Clean Power Plan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

St. Louis Public Radio – Veronique LeCapra – 9/24/14: Coordination of interview with Karl Brooks regarding climate change and Clean Power Plan. Follow-up on contact with U.S. Geological Survey. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Al Jazeera America – Diana Reeves – 9/24/14: Questions regarding Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) 2014. Referred to HQ EPA media office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Report: Higher cancer rates in areas near Cold Water Creek (video) - 9/23/14 - Data released from the Department of Health and Senior Services confirms what people who have lived near Cold Water Creek have been saying for years. They feared the rare cancers they were getting at an early age were directly related to radioactive contamination in the creek. But that data also has some mixed messages. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/09/23/cold-water-creek-north-st-louis-county-cancer-rates-report/16113757/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - State now asks for inquiry into North County cancers - 9/24/14 - In a sharp shift, state health officials are asking for help to investigate whether high rates of cancers in north St. Louis County are linked to nuclear contamination of Coldwater Creek, which residents have long feared is causing rare illnesses. http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/health/state-now-asks-for-inquiry-into-north-county-cancers/article_f2de6a33-f482-5d2a-9797-b7dd2f662ce1.html

KMOV Ch. 4 St. Louis - Report shows elevated cancer rates around Coldwater Creek - 9/23/14 - A new survey, released Tuesday, shows high rates of Leukemia, breast, colon and other cancers in the areas around Coldwater Creek and West Lake Landfill. The creek was contaminated by nuclear waste after World War II. <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Report-finds-increased-cancer-cases-near-St-Louis-County-creek-276836791.html>

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Cancers Occur at Higher Rate Along Cold Water Creek - 9/24/14 - People who live near Cold Water Creek in North St. Louis County have a higher rate of cancers than the rest of the state, according to the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Cancer Registry. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/09/24/cancers-occur-at-higher-rate-along-cold-water-creek/>

Lincoln Journal-Star - Nebraska is facing dramatic effects of climate change, UNL report finds - 9/24/14 - Severe storms, floods, hotter nights, scorching summers and drought. Human industry is driving climate change, and the implications for Nebraska are dramatic, according to the summary of a report on climate change compiled by University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. http://journalstar.com/news/local/nebraska-is-facing-dramatic-effects-of-climate-change-unl-report/article_f05519aa-338c-58d3-99ec-6c523b1e2327.html

Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier - Osage farmers honored for soil preservation - 9/23/14 - Improving and protecting Iowa's natural resources and the environment are concerns most of the state's farmers share. Mitchell County farmers Dean and Lucinda Sponheim were recently presented with an Environmental Leader Award for their commitment to improving water quality and maintaining healthy soil. http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/osage-farmers-honored-for-soil-preservation/article_45ca7b30-b3f2-5292-a41d-4c7be7024de6.html

Dickinson County News (Iowa) - Supervisors draft letter opposing livestock expansion near Milford - 9/23/14 - The Dickinson County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted to send a certified letter to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources that will call on the state agency to reconsider and deny the application for a hog building construction project near Horseshoe Bend Park. <http://www.dickinsoncountynews.com/story/2121621.html>

Des Moines Register - Guest Opinion: Iowa well-positioned with wind to meet EPA's Clean Power - 9/24/14 - Wind power is a big deal in Iowa. It's also a very good deal, considering Iowa's world-class wind resources and its manufacturing base. That makes wind energy a low-cost tool to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan, the first national effort to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2014/09/24/iowa-view-wind-power/16136597/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

The Hill - Vitter: Drowning our property rights: EPA's misuse of the Clean Water Act - 9/14/14 - In several different ways, President Obama's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is using and abusing the Clean Water Act to improperly block economic development projects and take away Americans' property rights. <http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/218663-drowning-our-property-rights-epas-misuse-of-the-clean-water-act>

Newton Daily News (Iowa) - No decision from EPA on 2014 RFS - 9/23/14 - Although most of the year has already passed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency still hasn't made a final decision on the 2014 Renewable Fuel Standard. <http://www.newtondailynews.com/2014/09/22/no-decision-from-epa-on-2014-rfs/ajs985x/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Foul smell south of downtown St. Louis drawing complaints - 9/23/14 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources office here is receiving complaints of a foul smell over the last week in south St. Louis. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/foul-smell-south-of-downtown-st-louis-drawing-complaints/article_18428286-1b20-5460-a069-0b0980818e8b.html

Washington Times - Opinion: Phony 'environmental justice' at EPA - 9/23/14 - Secretary of State John F. Kerry recently called climate change "the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction." The Environmental Protection Agency says it is "happening right now." Based on these and other dubious claims, EPA issued rules shutting down hundreds of coal-fired power plants and preventing new ones from being built. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/23/driessen-phony-environmental-justice-at-epa/>

FourStates Homepage - Tar Creek National Environmental Conference - 9/23/14 - 10 tribes and several state and government agencies are meeting at the 16th National Environmental Conference at Tar Creek to ramp up efforts in cleaning up the creek. For the past 20 years, removing lead and other contaminants in the water has been a difficult task, causing many health and environmental issues. "It is a cycle that doesn't end, unless we stop it," said Rebecca Jim, Executive Director of LEAD Agency. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representatives also discussed the remedial design of the Tar Creek Watershed. <http://www.fourstateshomepage.com/story/d/story/tar-creek-national-environmental-conference/38358/NKa2-BfIS02ViPIIGk-6dA>

Scripps Howard Wire - Proposed EPA Water Rules Have Farmers Worried - 9/23/14 - Farmers are wondering if proposed environmental water guidelines could complicate their work and raise the price of food for consumers. <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/59927/>

Politico - Obama offers few climate details - 9/24/14 - Perhaps the most interesting thing about President Barack Obama's climate change speech at the United Nations is what he didn't say. Obama delivered a forceful but largely detail-free speech. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/barack-obama-climate-change-pitch-111273.html>

Climate Central - 9/23/14 - Analysts, States Bullish on Success of Clean Power Plan - 9/23/14 - The Obama administration's proposed plan to slash carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants drew criticism from utilities, but bullish predictions from states and Wall Street analysts Tuesday at the 2014 Carbon Forum in New York. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/analysts-states-bullish-on-clean-power-plan-18072>

White House - FACT SHEET: President Obama Announces New Actions To Strengthen Global Resilience To Climate Change And Launches Partnerships To Cut Carbon Pollution - 9/23/14 - Today, at the United Nations Climate Summit in New York, President Obama announced a new set of tools to harness the unique scientific and technological capabilities of the United States to help vulnerable populations around the world strengthen their climate resilience. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/09/23/fact-sheet-president-obama-announces-new-actions-strengthen-global-resil>

Associated Press - Fact Check: Obama in UN speech spins statistics - 9/23/14 - President Barack Obama glossed over some inconvenient truths Tuesday in his climate-change speech to the United Nations. For one, as the U.S. cleans up emissions at home, it's sending dirty fuel abroad to pollute the same sky. <http://news.yahoo.com/fact-check-obama-un-speech-spins-statistics-211625952--finance.html>

New York Times - Obama Presses Chinese on Global Warming - 9/23/14 - President Obama, emboldened by his use of executive powers to fight climate change at home, challenged China on Tuesday to make the same effort to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions and join a worldwide campaign to curb global warming.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/24/world/asia/obama-at-un-climate-summit-calls-for-vast-international-effort.html>

CNN - Obama: Climate change 'growing and urgent threat' - 9/23/14 - President Barack Obama told a United Nations meeting on Tuesday that pollution must be contained to address climate change. Specifically, he called out China, saying that the most populous country on Earth, with the fastest increase in carbon pollution, must join the United States to lead the rest of the world in carbon reduction. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/23/politics/obama-un-climate-change/>

PBS NewsHour - Obama: U.S. part of climate problem, but all nations need to work on it - 9/23/14 - President Barack Obama said at the U.N. Climate Summit on Tuesday that the United States accepts responsibility for its part in climate change and will lead the way in doing something about it.
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/obama-addresses-u-n-climate-summit/>

Washington Post (blog) - Obama gives good speech on climate change, and Congress shrugs - 9/23/14 - The most important part of the speech may have been the implicit acknowledgment of the limitations that are likely to continue to constrain action for the foreseeable future. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2014/09/23/obama-gives-good-speech-on-climate-change-and-congress-shrugs/>

Washington Post - Obama appeals for 'ambitious' effort to stem effects of climate change - 9/23/14 - President Obama vowed Tuesday to push for completion next year of a comprehensive treaty reducing greenhouse gas emissions, warning that the Earth's climate appears to be "changing faster than our efforts to address it."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/obama-appeals-for-ambitious-effort-to-stem-effects-of-climate-change/2014/09/23/a9dfb682-4350-11e4-9a15-137aa0153527_story.html

Fortune - Climate summit kicks off with promises of \$200 billion for clean energy - 9/23/14 - President Obama says the U.S. will lead a global effort to forge an international agreement on emission targets by 2020. <http://fortune.com/2014/09/23/climate-summit-kicks-off-with-promises-of-200-billion-for-clean-energy/>

Reuters - U.S. energy infrastructure revamp may unlock \$6 trillion market: Kerry - 9/22/14 - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Monday the United States could potentially unlock a \$6 trillion energy market by revamping the country's fractured electricity grid, a move that he said would boost the competitiveness of renewable energy. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/22/us-un-climatechange-kerry-idUSKCN0HH2LN20140922>

Fortune - Fortune 500 companies take center stage at U.N. climate summit - 9/23/14 - many Fortune 500 CEOs will get a ringside seat at the U.N. climate summit in New York. About 125 presidents and prime ministers are expected at the one-day event featuring world leaders laying out their visions for combating global warming.
<http://fortune.com/2014/09/23/fortune-500-companies-take-center-stage-at-u-n-climate-summit/>

Smart Grid News - Up or down? The impact of EPA's Clean Power Plan on electric rates - 9/24/14 - Court decisions and new regulations are combining to accelerate the phase-out of coal-fired power plants. Utilities heavily dependent on older coal-fired plants may be forced to institute price hikes. But don't panic, says Lindsay Audin, writing for FacilitiesNet.com. http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Business_Policy_Regulation/Up-or-down-The-impact-of-EPA-s-Clean-Power-Plan-on-electric-rates-6775.html

Smart Grid News - Were we wrong about Germany? Can renewables make a grid MORE reliable? - 9/21/14 - In the first half of 2014, nearly 29% of Germany's electricity came from renewable sources – a new record. Yet the country has one of the world's most efficient grids.

http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Technologies_DG_Renewables/Were-we-wrong-about-Germany-Can-renewables-make-a-grid-MORE-reliable-6708.html/

Forbes - Nukes And Coal: The Surprising Clean Energy Bridge to Obama's Low Carbon Future - 9/23/14 - I don't buy this grim, Manichean worldview; we can find some common ground if we change our mentality towards two low-carbon superstars: nuclear power and coal plants that use carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelkrancer/2014/09/23/nukes-and-coal-the-surprising-clean-energy-bridge-to-obamas-low-carbon-future/>

ThinkProgress - Murray CEO Says EPA Has Permanently Destroyed Coal: 'Grandma Is Going To Be Cold' - 9/23/14 - It's widely known that Robert Murray, the founder of the country's largest privately-owned coal company, likes to use colorful language. And on Monday, the Murray Energy Corp. CEO took his personal hyperbole to new heights, saying proposed Environmental Protection Agency regulations will have the effect of permanently destroying the coal industry in the United States. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/09/23/3570853/murray-ceo-coal-grandma-is-going-to-be-cold/>

The Hill - EPA must focus on forest fact versus fiction - 9/23/14 - Recent scientific findings in the upcoming Journal of Forestry conclude that "the increased use of forest-derived materials most likely to be used for bioenergy in the United States results in low net greenhouse gas emissions, especially compared with fossil fuels." <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/218565-epa-must-focus-on-forest-fact-versus-fiction>

The Guardian (U.K.) - Facebook set to join rush to abandon rightwing lobby group Alec - 9/23/14 - Google and Microsoft have recently cut ties with the group, which campaigns against climate change legislation. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/24/facebook-abandons-rightwing-lobby-group-alec>

NPR - Can Climate Legislation Pass In Washington's Political Environment? (audio - 4:54) - 9/24/14 - Audie Cornish talks to U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz the morning after President Obama addressed the U.N. Climate Summit. <http://www.npr.org/2014/09/24/351074979/we-hear-from-energety-secretary-ernest-moniz>

White House (blog) - President Obama: "No Nation Is Immune" to Climate Change - 9/24/14 - In his remarks, the President detailed the ambitious clean energy investments and carbon emission reductions the U.S. has made, but made clear that all of the world's major economies also need to step up in order to protect our planet. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/09/23/president-obama-no-nation-immune-climate-change>

Washington Post - Why inequality makes it harder to stop climate change - 9/24/14 - The 100-plus heads of state gathered in New York this week for a historic climate summit will leave without solving climate change. This will be true the next time they get together, and the next time, and probably for a long time after that. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/storyline/wp/2014/09/24/why-inequality-makes-it-harder-to-stop-climate-change/>

Scientific American - Cities Will Solve Climate Change, Not Nations - 9/24/14 - As world leaders gathered at the U.N. to talk about global warming, mayors set about actually doing something about climate change. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/climate-change-will-be-solved-in-cities-or-not-at-all/>

Scientific American - Tick-Borne Diseases on the Rise Thanks to Global Warming - 9/24/14 - Lyme disease is bad enough. But it's just the beginning of a host of odd and ugly diseases ticks transmit, public health officials are finding. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/tick-borne-diseases-on-the-rise-thanks-to-global-warming/>

USA Today - Look out below: Danger lurks underground from aging gas pipes - 9/23/14 - About every other day over the past decade, a gas leak in the United States has destroyed property, hurt someone or killed someone, a USA TODAY Network investigation finds. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/09/23/gas-pipes-cast-iron-deaths-explosions-investigation/15783697/>

Climate Central - Peak of Tornado Season Shifting Earlier in Tornado Alley - 9/24/14 - Tornado damage in Branson, Mo., caused by the EF2 twister that struck the area on Feb. 29, 2012, the so-called Leap Day tornado outbreak. The tornado inspired remote sensing researcher John Long to look at how the peak in tornado activity has shifted in recent decades. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/tornado-season-shifting-earlier-in-tornado-alley-18073>

Environmental Leader - Website Aims to Lower Fuel Cost for Trucks - 9/24/14 - The Carbon War Room, together with the North American Council for Freight Efficiency, has launched Truckingefficiency.org, a website that aims to cut fuel costs for tractor-trailers by as much as 50 percent. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/09/24/website-aims-to-lower-fuel-cost-for-trucks/>

Daily Caller - The Left's Split Personality On Budget And Environmental Policy - 9/24/14 - The left has a split personality regarding budget and environmental policy. On the budget, the analytics are straightforward, the data extensive, and the factors involved relatively basic. On the environment, the very opposite is true of climate change. Yet the left is in determined denial about the former, and equally adamant in its certainty on the latter. <http://dailycaller.com/2014/09/24/the-lefts-split-personality-on-budget-and-environmental-policy/>

Bloomberg - The Environmental Case for the Sharing Economy - 9/24/14 - From rising carbon emissions to political gridlock in Washington, Americans haven't had much cause to hold their heads high during the climate debate. Here's one way U.S. policy-makers could help the planet without sacrificing growth: Embrace the sharing economy. <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-09-24/the-environmental-case-for-the-sharing-economy>

The Hill - US to give \$15M for methane reductions - 9/23/14 - The United States will contribute \$15 million toward a World Bank program to fund projects to reduce methane emissions. The contribution is meant to "kick start" the World Bank's effort, which it announced last week. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/218611-us-to-give-15m-for-methane-reductions>

Greenwire - Agency circulates plans to trim workforce - 9/23/14 - Chemists in Chicago, engineers in Cincinnati and security specialists in Washington, D.C., are among the U.S. EPA staffers who could get incentives to leave their jobs by early next year. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006312/>

Greenwire - Court extends timetable for CAFO case appeals - 9/23/14 - In light of U.S. EPA's decision not to appeal an agricultural water pollution case, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has extended its schedule for other parties to file briefings in the event that they decide to appeal. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006303/>

ClimateWire - Insurers, after White House meeting, emerged worried about more 'extreme weather' events - 9/24/14 - Five insurance trade groups are promoting stronger building decisions to help counter a sharp rise in losses from extreme weather, prompted by a meeting on climate change between senior White House officials and industry leaders in June. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2014/09/24/stories/1060006351>

BNA - Experts Say Smart Technology Can Be Force in Fight Against Climate Change - 9/23/14 - Industry leaders in the information and communication technology sectors are working on ways to help businesses and governments adapt to and mitigate climate change, according to speakers at the 4th Green Standards Week Sept. 22 in Beijing. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697502&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6g9n1e7&split=0

BNA - EPA Issues Final Child-Specific Exposure Scenarios - 9/23/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency released Sept. 22 a final report providing risk assessors with information they can use to predict children's exposures to air, dust, soil and water contaminants. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697501&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6g8n6k7&split=0

BNA - DOE Participation in EPA Power Plant Proposal Probed by House Committee - 9/23/14 - The House Energy and Commerce Committee is seeking records of discussions between the Energy Department and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to proposed carbon dioxide performance standards for new power plants. http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697518&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6h1a7r4&split=0

BNA - Experts Say Smart Technology Can Be Force in Fight Against Climate Change - 9/22/14 - Industry leaders in the information and communication technology sectors are working on ways to help businesses and governments adapt to and mitigate climate change, according to speakers at the 4th Green Standards Week Sept. 22 in Beijing. http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697502&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6g9n1e7&split=0

BNA - EPA Rule Will Be First Out From President's Chemical Safety Group, Consultant Says - 9/23/14 - While the Obama administration's chemical safety working group has sparked multiple agency rulemakings, the Environmental Protection Agency is contemplating the broadest changes and should finish its update first, a policy analyst told a gathering of small business representatives Sept. 19. http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697516&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6h0x5p8&split=0

BNA - OMB Reviewing Proposed Implementation Requirements for Fine Particle Standards - 9/23/14 - The White House Office of Management and Budget is reviewing an Environmental Protection Agency proposal that would establish requirements for states as they implement the 2012 national ambient air quality standards for fine particulate matter. http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697512&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6h0p6m1&split=0

BNA - Experts Say Smart Technology Can Be Force in Fight Against Climate Change - 9/23/14 - Industry leaders in the information and communication technology sectors are working on ways to help businesses and governments adapt to and mitigate climate change, according to speakers at the 4th Green Standards Week Sept. 22 in Beijing. http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697502&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6g9n1e7&split=0

BNA - China to Seek to Cap Emissions As Soon as Possible, Senior Official Says - 9/23/14 - China will seek to cap its carbon dioxide emissions as soon as possible, a senior member of the country's leadership said, signaling his government's willingness to take concrete steps to curb climate change. http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697531&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6h4n0y7&split=0

BNA - Global Coalition of Mayors Pledges Emissions Cuts Beyond National Goals - 9/23/14 - A coalition of more than 200 mayors representing an aggregate population of 400 million people has signed a Compact of Mayors pledging to accelerate reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change, sponsors of the project announced at the UN Climate Summit Sept. 23. http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56697537&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6h9p8x2&split=0

Inside EPA - Obama Gives EPA Power Plant GHG Rule Central Role In Climate Talks - 9/23/14 - President Obama says EPA's proposed rule regulating greenhouse gases (GHGs) at existing power plants will play a central role in the United States' commitments in upcoming international talks to curb the emissions. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409232482217/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/obama-gives-epa-power-plant-ghg-rule-central-role-in-climate-talks/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - 'Clean' Utilities Cite DR Ruling To Bolster Suit Over EPA Generator Air Rule - 9/23/14 - "Clean" utilities that generate much of their power from lower-emission sources such as natural gas are citing an appellate court's ruling scrapping the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) policy on compensating demand response (DR) resources as boosting their suit over an EPA air rule for generators used in DR programs. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409232482236/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/clean-utilities-cite-dr-ruling-to-bolster-suit-over-epa-generator-air-rule/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Obama Gives EPA Power Plant GHG Rule Central Role In Climate Talks - 9/23/14 - President Obama says EPA's proposed rule regulating greenhouse gases (GHGs) at existing power plants will play a central role in the United States' commitments in upcoming international talks to curb the emissions. <http://insideepa.com/201409232482206/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/obama-gives-epa-power-plant-ghg-rule-central-role-in-climate-talks/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - CEI Pushes Air Law Reform To Bolster State-EPA 'Cooperative Federalism' - 9/23/14 - Conservative think tank the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) is suggesting Congress pursue Clean Air Act amendments to correct what it sees as an imbalance in the air law's "cooperative federalism" balance between EPA's regulatory powers and those given to states. <http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-09/25/2014/cei-pushes-air-law-reform-to-bolster-state-epa-cooperative-federalism/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Seeks To Ease Air Monitoring Requirements For Overburdened States - 9/23/14 - EPA is proposing to streamline and simplify its air quality monitoring requirements in order to help reduce burdens for states that are struggling to meet the mandates due to shrinking budgets. <http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-09/25/2014/epa-seeks-to-ease-air-monitoring-requirements-for-overburdened-states/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - ECOS Urges EPA, Congress To Reverse 'Inequitable' Funding To States - 9/23/14 - The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) has approved a resolution that urges EPA and Congress to reverse what the group of state environmental regulators sees as "inequitable apportionment" of federal funding to states. <http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-09/25/2014/ecos-urges-epa-congress-to-reverse-inequitable-funding-to-states/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Eyes Voluntary Oil & Gas Program For Key Role In Methane Strategy - 9/23/14 - EPA is hinting that its pending voluntary Gas Star Gold program for reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector could be part of its upcoming strategy outlining policies and other tools for cutting methane. <http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-09/25/2014/epa-eyes-voluntary-oil-aamp-gas-program-for-key-role-in-methane-strategy/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - Industry, Advocates Fight Over Stringency Of EPA's Chromium MACT Rule - 9/23/14 - Chromium plating industry groups and environmentalists are fighting in litigation over the stringency of EPA's chromium maximum achievable control technology (MACT) air toxics rule. <http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-09/25/2014/industry-advocates-fight-over-stringency-of-epas-chromium-mact-rule/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Works To Meet IG's Call For Better Diesel Funding Program Oversight - 9/23/14 - EPA is working to meet an Inspector General (IG) recommendation to improve oversight of its program that funds retrofits of diesel engines with lower-emitting technologies. <http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-09/25/2014/epa-works-to-meet-igs-call-for-better-diesel-funding-program-oversight/menu-id-68.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

9/26/14 – UMKC Climate Action Event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147

9/29/14 – Carter Carburetor Site Tour, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

9/29/14 – Congressional Briefing, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

9/30/14 – Strong Cities Strong Communities Update with Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Charlie Foley, 7710

9/30/14 – Midwest Energy Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

10/1/14 – Meeting with Jason Klumb, Regional Administrator for GSA, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/2/14 – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

10/4/14 – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

10/3/14 – Iowa Water Challenges Outreach Event with Brody Middle School, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

10/9/14 – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

10/10/14 – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

11/12/14 – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

11/18/14 – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

DRA:

10/1/14 – Meeting with Jason Klumb, Regional Administrator for GSA, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/7/14 - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

11/12/14 – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

9/26/2014 – EJ Screen Demonstration, MDNR, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: B. Corazzin, 7429

9/30/14 - 10/2/14 - Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Project Officer Training, Washington, D.C. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

9/30/14 – National EJ Coordinator’s Meeting in Washington, D.C. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

10/5-8/14 – Superfund 101 Training, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: A. Moses, 7649

10/19-22/14 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, D.C., Contact: D. Singletary, x7373

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers’ Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874

and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

10/7/14 – Greater St. Louis Sub-Area Committee, Industry Day Workshop for spill response strategies on the lower Missouri River, St. Charles, Mo. – Contact: Jeff Weatherford 636-326-4720

10/22/14 – Public Availability Session to discuss remedial action and the Five Year Review for the Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Brad Vann, 7611

WWPD

9/25/14 – Natural Resources Conservation Service Kansas Technical Committee Meeting, Salina, Kan. Contact: Steve Schaff, 7447

9/30-10/2/14 – North Central Region Water Network’s Water Resource Management Conference, Bloomington, Minn. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

10/8-9/14 – 2014 National CAFO Roundtable, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

10/15-16/14 – Big River Task Force Meeting with Other State and Federal Agencies, Farmington, Mo. Contact: Jeannette Schafer, 7297

10/20-21/14 – Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, Alton, Ill. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

11/3-6/14 – EPA Tribal 106 Coordinators Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

Des Moines Register

Opinion: Iowa well-positioned with wind to meet EPA’s Clean Power

By Steve Lockard
September 23, 2014

Wind power is a big deal in Iowa. It’s also a very good deal, considering Iowa’s world-class wind resources and its manufacturing base. That makes wind energy a low-cost tool to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed Clean Power Plan, the first national effort to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants.

The draft EPA proposal leaves it up to individual states as to how they want to reduce emissions, and Iowa is well positioned to protect existing jobs, create new ones and make the state more competitive by expanding wind energy as a central feature of its plan.

“As wind energy grows, so does the economy.” That’s what Gov. Terry Branstad said after the Des Moines-based MidAmerican Energy, Iowa’s largest utility, announced plans last year to spend close to \$2 billion to install hundreds of wind turbines in Iowa. That equals the largest economic development project in Iowa’s history.

Wind power's total contribution to Iowa's economy is impressive, adding \$10 billion in capital investment to date and supporting thousands of jobs statewide. Our company, TPI Composites, builds large blades for wind turbines in Iowa. Our manufacturing facility in Newton now supports more than 800 jobs and, since our facility opened six years ago, workers at the plant have told us how much these jobs have meant to their community.

Iowa is blessed with strong wind resources. Over 27 percent of Iowa's electricity now comes from reliable wind power, making it number one in the U.S. in terms of wind penetration. Keeping Iowa lights on with wind power cuts the expense of producing electricity by displacing the most expensive, least efficient power sources on the grid.

MidAmerican's investment to help Iowa harvest more wind power is expected to save customers up to \$10 million per year once built. Wind energy also has no fuel cost, protecting consumers from the volatile price of other energy sources.

Iowa farmers call wind farms their drought-resistant cash crop. Over \$16 million a year in wind farm lease payments to Iowa landowners creates added economic security.

Wind farms also help Iowa farmers by not competing for sometimes scarce water resources. Producing electricity with wind energy emits no air pollution and uses virtually no water, saving billions of gallons of water a year by taking the place of other sources that are heavy water users.

Iowa is in the top five states nationally in tons of carbon dioxide emissions reduced through wind energy, with emissions reduced by nearly 14 percent. These reductions have already put Iowa in a strong position to meet the EPA's new carbon reduction plan, and additional wind turbines will cost-effectively bring Iowa into compliance.

Carbon-free wind energy can be sold to other states that lack Iowa's world-class wind resources but want to cost-effectively reduce their emissions.

Thanks to leadership by Republican and Democratic Iowa policymakers, wind energy has been a great asset for creating jobs and diversifying Iowa's energy mix. Gov. Branstad, Sens. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin, and Reps. Steve King, Tom Latham, Bruce Braley and Dave Loebsack, understood wind power's potential early on and Iowa is now reaping the benefits.

If legislators in other states use Iowa as a model, they too can embrace the economic benefits that go with tapping into carbon-free electricity.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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